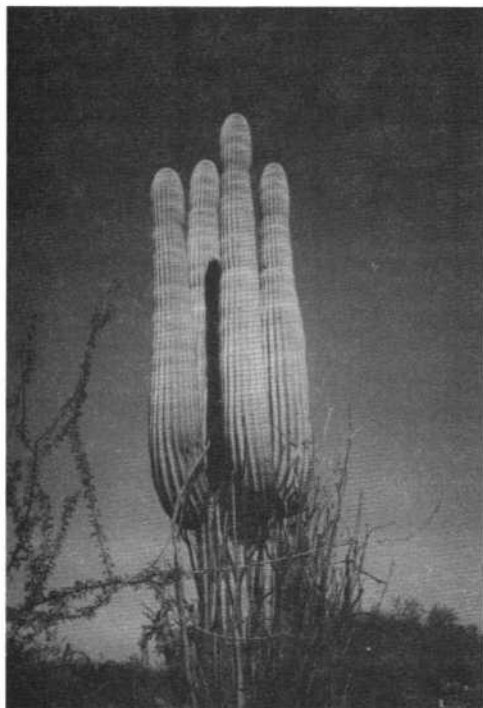




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1998



Even the desert proclaims the glory of God.

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

From the time He dwelt on earth as man, the followers of Jesus have perceived the world in two contrasting ways and with mixed emotions. Christians believe that God in the beginning created the heavens and the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, and men and women and all the other creatures that inhabit our planet. God looked on His creation and found it good. Christians, too, look on the handiwork of God and find it good. Today they can look on the earth from above the atmosphere and see our planet as it is, truly a jewel in the skies.

On the other hand, the "world" in quotation marks is many times the antithesis of the pristine world. Our first parents endowed with intelligence and free will, took a wrong step early on and we, their heirs and offspring, suffer, as did even good St. Paul, the urge to do what we should not do and not do what we should — the curse of

original sin. The spirit of the "world" is so often directly contrary to the law of God as expressed in the Ten Commandments.

In the early centuries of the Church, St. Anthony one day heard the gospel story of the rich young man who wanted to know the way to eternal life and was told, to his disappointment, to go sell what he possessed, give it to the poor, and come follow Jesus. Anthony did just that and then retired to the contemplative life in the Egyptian desert. He is the Father of the Monks.

In his famous sermon on the mount, Jesus told His hearers not to be overly concerned with food and clothes and shelter, but to concentrate on the important things, namely, to seek first the kingdom of God and all these other things would be added.

(Continued on next page)

Over the years of history Jesus' followers have often been chided for paying more attention to heavenly things than to things of earth. But the chiders often failed to see the monuments of our Christian heritage, great cathedrals, priceless art, institutions of learning, libraries, orphanages, hospitals — so often built in the midst of desolation and upheaval.

The Second Vatican Council took a step, unusual for such gatherings, to reflect on the relation of the Church to the world at this time. What should the Church be for the world in these days? All of us human beings are called to be in communion with God; we were created by Him, and He died on the cross and rose from the dead to redeem us from our sins. Because Jesus was the God-man, and therefore our Brother, each one of us has a special dignity, and though each one may be good, bad, or indifferent, each one has been called to be one with God in heaven.

The Church is the shining city on the mountain-top. The Church is the visible sign of Christ to the world. And since we the baptized, clergy, religious and laity, are the Church, our lives should be such as to reflect the face of Christ to the world. St. Paul writes in 2 Cor. 4:6: "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ."

We should live our religion to the hilt. Commanded to preach the gospel to all nations, it behooves us to know our religion, to study it constantly, to explain it to those who do not know it, defend it against those who would attack it. In a word, we are called to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to a world sadly in need of it.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
 - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography of Father Seelos. Price \$10.00.
 - b. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, by Patricia Treece. Two of the chapters are on Father Seelos. Price: \$8.95 plus postage.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, Thad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957, Rosary Stoltman, 393-9423, Jim Howard, 277-7949 or Marie Callahan, 525-1775.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center (504) 525-2495.
 - h. Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
 - i. Every week a Mass is celebrated for the intention of the Father Seelos Center.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS FOUR DOLLARS PER YEAR. Please let us know you want to continue receiving this bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Return the lower portion of this page to us. Include your old address.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

San Antonio, TX

When one of my sons decided to seek the office of state representative, I asked that his name be placed at the tomb of Father Seelos. I asked Father Seelos and Father Solanus to help my son win the election and that he would be a credit to his Church and a good representative of his community.

Although he had not been politically active before the campaign, he received valuable community support, defeated two other candidates in the primary, and won the general election with 62% of the vote. My son presented several rather impressive and much-needed bills to the state legislature. I am proud of his record.

I thank Father Seelos for the help he gave my son, and I continue to ask for his guidance as my son finishes up this first session and seeks to serve a second term.

A few years ago my grandchildren and some of my children and my husband and I were able to visit the beautiful St. Mary's Assumption Church and the tomb of Father Seelos. What a rewarding experience!

A friend who had lived in New Orleans for several years introduced me to Father Seelos. Since then he has helped me through many difficulties. I continue to pray for his canonization.

Abbeville, LA

I am writing to let you know that Father Seelos has again put his love and help where it was needed. I wrote and asked you to pray for two people, Dee and John, who were both diagnosed with tumors... I said the Father Seelos prayer for Dee and about a week ago I heard that the sonogram showed no tumor. Although John is not a Catholic he does go to church with his wife who is a Catholic. So I sent the prayer-card and memento of Father Seelos to them in Hawaii. I included him in my prayers. Last night the wife called to tell me that the sonogram showed no tumor. He was thankful for the prayers. And I am for yours.

Jefferson, LA

On a dismal cold day in early December, someone very close to my heart and family fell desperately ill and was rushed to a nearby hospital. The doctors were not hopeful that our sweet one would make it through the night, but in my heart I felt the time was not right for him to be called by God. Naturally we prayed the prayers we say each day, begging God to spare the death of one we felt was not to be called. Finally, in desperation, I picked up a copy of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY. It was the October issue and his anniversary Mass had been on Sunday, October 5, 1997. Because of my devotion to Father Seelos, and the help and courage he had helped me to obtain in the past, I asked that he go and stay at the foot of the patient's bed. I knew he would not fail me, for he has never before, nor do I think he ever will. Throughout the night whenever I would awaken, I would remember Father Seelos was there, watching over our dear one.

Although it has taken five weeks for a shaky recovery, Father Seelos remained at his post throughout the entire illness, and helped the patient return to our dear Lord by — without prompting — completing his duties by confession and Communion.

How does one thank such a dear little soul as Father Seelos? Not only will the patient become well in body through time, but will also become well in soul. Had Father Seelos not remained with the patient, when the priest approached, his heart would have remained that of stone.

As in the past I will remain loyal to dear Father Seelos, spreading his name and importance throughout the world in which I live. Thank you, dear Lord, for introducing me to such a tender little being.

Mail: January, 1998

Petitions: 694

Thanksgivings: 249

Others: 345

Total: 1288

Dial-A-Messages: 772

Volunteer Hours: 1061

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